

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 13-17, 20, 23 and 25 are pending in the instant application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 10. Claim 23 has been amended to recite the subject matter of canceled claim 24. Also, claims 11-12, 18-19 and 21-22 have been canceled.

No new matter has been added by way of the above-amendment.

Prior Art Based Rejections

The following rejections are pending:

- 1) Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 13, 15-17, 19, 20, 22, 23 and 25 are rejected under 37 CFR § 102(b) as being anticipated by Brust et al (US 6,100,019); and
- 2) Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brust et al. in view of Antoniadis et al. (US 5,250,403).

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Applicants respectfully submit that the originally filed claims are patentable over the cited references. However, in order to advance prosecution, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 23 to incorporate the subject matter that the Examiner has indicated as allowable (see the section numbered as "4" on page 4 of the July 28, 2005 Office Action). Specifically, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 10 and independent claim 23 has been amended to recite the subject matter of claim 24. Accordingly, these rejections have been rendered moot.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

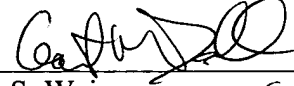
Application No. 09/955,438
Amendment dated January 30, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 28, 2005

Docket No.: 0042-0455P

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Garth M. Dahlen, Ph.D., Esq. (Reg. No. 43,575) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: January 30, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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